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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/916,140 08/21/97 SCOTT

M SUV-003.04

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BOSTON MA 02109

HM12/0519

EXAMINER

SCHNIZER, R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1632

DATE MAILED:

05/19/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/916,140	8/21/97	SCOTT	SUV-003.04

EXAMINER	
Richard Schnizer	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1632	13

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

DETAILED ACTION

An amendment was received and entered as Paper No. 12 on 3/13/2000. Claims 1-48 were canceled as requested and new claims 50-60 were added. Claims 49-60 are under consideration in this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

The reply filed on 3/13/2000 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because: the amendment to claim 49, and addition of new claims 50-60, resulted in the introduction of a new, distinct invention not previously claimed. The original invention was a method of treatment, whereas the amended claims are drawn to methods of screening for agents which modulate *patched*-dependent signal transduction. It is noted that step (e) of claim 49 recites administration of a test agent to an animal. However this appears to be only a screening step and not a method of treatment, because the preamble and the other method steps are drawn to a method of screening. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior

Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

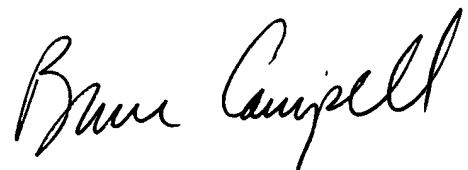
The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner(s) should be directed to Richard Schnizer, whose telephone number is 703-306-5441. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7:30 to 4:00 (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jasmine Chambers, can be reached at 703-308-2035. The FAX phone number for art unit 1632 is 703-308-0294.

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of the application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Richard Schnizer, Ph. D.



BRUCE R. CAMPELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800